

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling scheduled pickup for Wednesday, Feb. 25, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

The 2004 Harford County Recycling schedules are available to APG military housing residents at the APG Housing Office, building 2727; AA/EA Re-Nu-It centers, buildings 5413 and E-5185; and the AA Collection Station, building 3558 on Rodman Road.

Change in accountable mail procedure at AA Post Office

As of Feb. 17, the APG Post Office in building 2201, is no longer accepting outgoing accountable mail (registered, certified, insured, etc.) in the back area of the Post Office before 12 p.m. This is due in part to the fact that the clerks are still sometimes in the middle of processing the incoming accountable mail for delivery.

Customers may go to the front in the Post Office to have their outgoing accountable mail processed by the retail clerk.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this matter, contact the APG Postmaster, Al Van Kleec at 410-278-7967.

ATC supports training exercise

Aberdeen Test Center will support a training exercise through Feb. 26. Both day and nighttime exercises are planned. Residents and boaters in the surrounding communities may hear noise from weapons firing or see aircraft and flashes of light.

Questions, complaints, or damage claims should be directed to 410-278-1147, 410-278-1153 or 1-800-688-8705.

Teen dating, violence seminar

Army Community Service will present Facts About Teen Dating Violence: Love Shouldn't Hurt, 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 19, at the Aberdeen Area ACS, building 2754 and 6 to 8 p.m., Feb. 26, at the Edgewood Area ACS, building E-4630. This presentation is for teens, ages 13 through 18. Topics include discussing rape drugs, how to help a friend, safety while dating, and how to report violence.

For more information or

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Army News

OC&S awards top service members



The U.S. Army Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance Schools' Service Members of the Year pose together during the Army, Marines and Air Force Recognition Luncheon at Top of the Bay, Feb. 13. From left, Marine Sgt. Jeremy T. Flannery, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Sgt. 1st Class Kevin L. Olson, Drill Sergeant of the Year; Sgt. Carolyn E. McCarthy, NCO of the Year; Spc. Jonathan Short, Soldier of the Year; and Air Force Staff Sgt. Alicia P. Stigger, NCO of the Year.

Story and photo by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools recognized the winners of the Service Member of the Year competition for 2004 during an award luncheon at Top of the Bay Feb. 13.

Recipients of the 2004 honors included Sgt. Carolyn E. McCarthy, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Spc. Jonathan Short, Soldier of the Year; Sgt. 1st Class Kevin L. Olson, Drill Sergeant of the Year; Marine Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Flannery, NCO of the Year; and Air Force Staff Sgt. Alicia P. Stigger, NCO of the Year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Manuel F. Torres led the ceremony. Torres explained the selection process and said that each service member was deemed the best through either a series of qualification requirements or by a consensus of their superiors.

"Whether Marines, airmen, drill sergeants, Soldiers or noncommissioned officers,

today we honor them as the schools' best," Torres said

Col. Paul Meredith, OC&S deputy commander, said it was noteworthy that the Soldier of the Year is a graduate of the Maryland Army National Guard's Military Youth Corps Free State Challenge Academy, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"He has distinguished himself and made us all very proud of him," Meredith said.

Torres thanked the OC&S staff, recreation services, and the Army & Air Force Exchange Service for "putting it all together through hard work and contributions."

"This is what it's all about," Torres said. "It's all one team."

Army Commendation medals, savings bonds, gift certificates and trophies were among the awards the service members received. In addition, Luis Fernandez of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Association of the United States Army awarded each a gift certificate for a crystal

See **OC&S**, page 10

Military wives continue service flag tradition

Story and photos by
Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Military and Civilian Spouses' Club met for the third time to continue its revival of Gold Star Flags with a project gathering at the Aberdeen Area Chapel Feb. 11.

Led by Elaine Valentin, founder of 'A Military Wife,' about two dozen MCSC volunteers performed the tasks of measuring, cutting, sewing, and ironing to complete 40 Gold Star Flags in one day. About 150 more are in various stages of completion.

'A Military Wife' supplies Gold Star Flags to the families of fallen service members in the War on Terrorism who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A common practice in World Wars I and II that fell away over the years, the project was restarted by Valentin and has grown into a nationally recognized effort endorsed by the Department of Defense.

Valentin said the latest count for requests was at 645.

"We receive requests through all branches, Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines," Valentin said. "We will complete as many today as possible," she added noting that she completes the

final process of adding the stars, and the service member's name, rank, and any requested sentiments on her embroidery machine at home.

Valentin said donations are needed to keep the nonprofit organization going.

"Donations are tax-free and go toward material and shipping costs," Valentin said, noting that it costs \$33 to create and ship each flag.

"We ship to the unit or to the family, whichever one has contacted us," she said.

Valentin began the project two years ago after she was unable to locate a flag as a gift for her grandmother.

"Both my grandfathers served in WWII and I wanted to do this as a way to honor them," Valentin said.

She contacted the Department of Defense for guidance.

"Their response was 'how quickly can you do this and how big can you take it?'" Valentin said.

She named the project 'A Military Wife' and enlisted the aid of MCSC to accomplish the mission.

"We will do this as long as there is a need," she said.

Paula Meredith, MCSC president, and the wife of Col. Paul Meredith, deputy commander,

See **FLAGS**, page 11



Sonia Moss, the wife of an Army Warrant Officer stationed in Iraq, sews the red border to the white center, creating the gold star flag base. Left inset, a Gold Star Flag created by the APG MCSC for a fallen Marine hangs on display in the AA Chapel.

Self-Help Job Information Center to open

CPAC

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has partnered with Army Community Service to open a Job Information Center in building 2754, room 203 on March 1.

"We needed to find a way to assist job seekers in using automated tools since the posting of hardcopy job vacancy announcements on office bulletin boards has been replaced by electronic bulletin boards," said Sue Cassidy, acting chief, Advisory Services Division II, CPAC. "Today job applicants can instantly find job openings anywhere within the Department of Army."

"By partnering, we can better serve our workforce and the surrounding community in their search for federal employment," she said.

The partnership joins the resources of ACS with the know-how of the CPAC to provide improved services to constituents.

The center, which will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, is equipped

with seven computer stations, printer, FAX, copier and telephone.

Step-by-step guides will be available to assist job seekers in using a variety of Army automated programs to search for job openings, develop their resume, and transmit job applications.

Job applicants entering APG through the Maryland Gate (Route 715-Aberdeen Area) can pick-up a map with directions to building 2754.

Those applicants seeking Non-Appropriated Fund, or NAF, positions (e.g., recreation aids, food service workers, etc.) may continue to visit the NAF Personnel Office located in the lower level in building 305 for job information, although these job vacancies are likewise posted on an electronic bulletin board at www.apg.army.mil/garrison/cpoc/cpac/NAFjobs/updating.htm.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, ACS, 410-278-9669.

Resumix coming soon for external recruitment

CPAC

Resumix for delegated examining is tentatively scheduled to be deployed by Department of Army in early March.

Delegated examining, also known as external recruitment, is the primary mechanism for U.S. citizens without prior federal service to be considered for Army vacancies.

The new automated system is a resume-based system similar to what is used for internal merit promotion.

Upon deployment, there will no longer be a need to develop Knowledge, Skills and Abilities and crediting plans, and applicants won't have to respond to KSAs.

One significant difference with the delegated examining version of Resumix is an embedded skill-weighting mechanism.

This tool allows the manager to array skills from the most to least important for successful job performance, and personnelists to refer those applicants who possess the greatest

percentage of the heaviest weighted skills. Referrals, along with the applicants' resumes, will be issued electronically.

Applicants can view the status of their job applications via an on-line applicant response system.

Veterans preference and the requirement to select from among the three highest ranking candidates, unique delegated examining requirements based in law, still apply.

Force Stabilization increases readiness, predictability

Joe Burlas

Army News Service,

While the primary goal of stabilizing Soldiers is to increase the readiness of their units for national security requirements, that stabilization also supports Well-Being for Soldiers and their family members, according to officials.

Force Stabilization is one of the 16 focus areas Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker identified last fall that the Army will work initiatives to remain ready and relevant in the near term and the future.

"We think by stabilizing the Army, where we don't move the Army every two to three years on an individual basis, but we keep people in place, develop cohesive, stable units, where spouses can work, where kids can go to school, where people can invest in homes and develop equity, stabilizes forces," Schoomaker told members of the House Armed Services Committee, Jan. 28. "It's better for the fighting forces. It's better for the families. And, it will increase our retention."

To stabilize Soldiers and their families in the near term, the Army plans to implement two strategies — Home-basing and Unit Focused Stability, said Col. Paul Thornton who has been working the issue for the past 17 months as a member of the Unit Manning Task Force and chief of its successor, Task Force Stabilization.

Under Home-basing, all initial entry Soldiers — enlisted and officers — initially assigned to selected installations will remain on their initial duty-assignment installation following training for six to seven years. This allows Soldiers and their families time to grow community roots and have a known family support structure in place for those families if the Soldiers deploy, Thornton said. It also allows predictability in where they will be for a longer period than the current system permits, he said.

Currently, the average assignment tour length for enlisted initial entry Soldiers is about 31 months, said Brig. Gen. Sean

See **FORCE**, page 2

Army News

New Army Web site assists disabled retirees

Army News Service

A new Web site designed to assist disabled military retirees in applying for Combat-Related Special Compensation went online the week of Jan. 12.

The U.S. Army CRSC Web site, located at <http://www.crsc.army.mil>, provides information disabled military retirees need to apply for this special compensation, said officials from the Human Resources Command. The site provides program guidelines used to determine eligibility for combat-related disability benefits and application procedures for the program.

“The site includes an application form, which can be downloaded, and it gives detailed instructions of the application process,” said Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee, the Army adjutant general. “It also contains supporting documentation required to substantiate a claim, and helpful tips on how to enable the timeli-

est application processing.”

The Web site also provides:

- Guidance on how and where to file an appeal for retirees who previously submitted applications that have been determined ineligible or have been declined.
- A detailed listing of specific information and documentation that is frequently overlooked by applicants in their initial applications, as well as procedural and timing considerations.
- Phone and e-mail points of contact in the event customers have difficulty navigating the site or need specific information about the CRSC program.

As a provision of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act, CRSC allows eligible disabled military retirees to collect payments for both their military service and their service-related disability.

According to the legislation, a veteran with “combat-related” disabilities is any 20-year military retiree with at least a 60 per-

cent combined disability rating, with injuries as a “direct result of armed conflict” or as a result of “hazardous” military service, while serving in “conditions simulating war” or were incurred “through an instrumentality of war.”

Automatic qualifiers include any military retiree with at least 20 years of service who is rated as at least 10 percent disabled by injuries related to the award of a Purple Heart, officials said. Payments are retroactive to June 1 for those whose disability occurred before that date. Those who apply and are approved will begin receiving payments about 60 days after approval. Payments are deposited concurrently with standard military pay.

As of Jan.1, CRSC eligibility will be expanded to include disabled military retirees with 10 to 100 percent VA disability rating and Reservists and National Guard retirees eligible at age 60 who are receiving retired pay.

(Editor’s note: This article was submitted by U.S. Army Human Resources Command Public Affairs Office.)

Army changes enlistment lengths to support Stabilization

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

Basic and Advanced Individual Training will be in addition to the number of years a new recruit enlists for under a new Force Stabilization initiative.

There are 19 jobs, mainly combat-arm specialties, which fall under the recently implemented Variable Enlistment Length program. Under VEL, Soldiers can enlist for three- to five-year VEL options. After arriving at their first unit, they are stabilized for at least three years.

Since its implementation in December more than 2,000 Soldiers have enlisted under VEL.

A smaller number of troops have enlisted under the congressionally mandated 15-month pilot program, “National Call to Service.” Since it was approved Oct. 1, about 125 Soldiers have enlisted in the Army under the program. Similarly to VEL, the program doesn’t include training as part of the time-in-service contract

and only a limited number of specialties fall under it.

National Call to Service was adopted by each of the other services. The 15-month pilot program coincides with VEL because they both kicked off about the same time, said Lt. Col. Harry Garner, chief of Enlisted Accessions Division. They both keep initial-term Soldiers stabilized at their first duty station, but the National Call to Service is not a part of the Army’s stabilization plans, Garner said.

The mission of Force Stabilization is to provide ready, deployable, combat forces, and to do that units have to first be manned, said Col. Michael Harris, the deputy director of Directorate of Military Personnel Policy, G1. However, VEL isn’t just about manning units, it’s also about stabilizing Soldiers, he said, referring to the fact that Soldiers under VEL would stay at their first unit for at least three years.

The Soldiers who fall under the

selected job specialties will initially be assigned to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., which is scheduled to begin converting to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team in October.

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment is a combat unit, which is why Human Resources Command selected specialties such as infantry, cannon crewmember and cavalry scout, Garner said. Some of the non-combat-arms jobs that fall under VEL are human resources specialist, 42A; administration specialist, 42L; and supply specialist, 92Y.

“VEL will be used to man all of the maneuver brigade combat teams, to include one of the brigades in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. It will transform into a Stryker unit by 2005,” Harris said. “Under Force Stabilization, we will synchronize Soldiers’ assignment cycles with units’ operational cycles.”

Most units’ operational cycles are on a 36-month schedule, Harris said.

Before VEL, many Soldiers already enlisted for only 36 months, but their initial-entry training took from three months to a year. So when they arrived at their unit, they were not there for a full 36 months.

“But if you synchronize the schedules, and all the Soldiers come in together, train, deploy, fight, win and return together, you will get a more deployable and ready force,” Harris said.

Another example Harris cited to reinforce the push for stabilization was that Soldiers could get more familiar with their weapons. “If you’re assigned an M16 at an installation, and you’re there for three years, and you take that same M16 to the range ... you’re going to be more proficient with your weapon.

“In contrast, if you go to 2.3 installations over a three-year period ... and touch three different weapons, you’ll probably be less proficient with your weapon.”

Force Stabilization is one of Army

Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker’s 16 focus areas. “How the Army mans its force was an immediate area that the chief of staff wanted us to look at,” Harris said. “We’ve developed two programs under Force Stabilization. One is ‘Home-basing’ and the other is ‘Unit Focused Stability,’ previously known as ‘unit manning.’”

Home-basing would require initial-term officers and enlisted Soldiers to stay at their first duty station for an extended tour of up to six or seven years, Harris said.

He said VEL directly supports Stabilization because initial-entry Soldiers report to their unit at the same time and spend at least three years at that unit.

While some Force Stabilization initiatives will likely begin this summer, the specific units and installations to be affected will not be announced until next month after a review of the current VEL is done by the Army, officials said.

Force

From front page

Byrne, director of Military Personnel Policy, G-1.

Home-basing does not apply to midterm or career Soldiers, only initial entry Soldiers, Thornton said, but should lead to return assignments to the Home-base for all Soldiers eventually.

Nor does the initiative stop Home-based Soldiers being levied for a short-term assignments at other locations.

Soldiers need to know that there may be a chance they’ll have to do other things during their initial extended tour— short tours in Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo — but with Home-basing, they will return to their initial-assignment installations, Byrne said.

The six-to-seven-year career mark for ending Home-basing was established because that is the point where the Army’s manning needs outside of tactical units significantly increases, Thornton said.

“It’s the point where that initial entry officer has made captain, completed a company command, and the Army may need that officer as a

Pentagon staff officer, an instructor at the schoolhouse, or to complete advanced civilian schooling,” Thornton said. “The enlisted Soldier will have likely made sergeant by that time and is ready for assignment as a recruiter, drill sergeant or an instructor.”

Leader development training, such as basic and advanced noncommissioned officer course, and the captain’s career course should not be impacted by Home-basing, as Soldiers will be sent to that training on temporary duty and then return to the installation.

Home-basing is set to start at selected Forces Command installations with divisional brigade combat teams sometime in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. It will eventually include most FORSCOM bases in the United States and may include some combined FORSCOM/Training and Doctrine Command posts, Byrne said.

Under the second initiative, Unit Focused Stability, all members of a unit initially arrive at the same time and are stabilized in that unit for three years.

“Optimally, if you want to build unit cohesion, you keep members of a team together through training, deployment and employment,” Thornton said. “This is about building more capable warfighting units that require less train-up time when alerted for deployment.”

The Army understands that losses occur to any unit due to medical, administrative, hardship or judicial issues, Thornton said, so there is a plan for an annual package of replacements who would remain with the unit through the remainder of the 36 month unit lifecycle. Individual replacements for key positions will be filled as required and requested by the unit, he said.

A key aspect to Unit Focused Stability is that the majority of these scheduled replacements joining the unit will be initial entry Soldiers.

“Let’s say you need to replace a company commander due to a loss,” Thornton said. “His replacement will come from within — somebody who has been with the unit at the start of the unit lifecycle, somebody like the company executive officer or one of the battalion staff officers. Then you take a senior platoon leader and backfill the position left vacant. The initial entry replacement comes in and then fills the empty platoon leader position. It works the same way on the enlisted side.”

Recruiters have been armed with a variable enlistment incentive to encourage those entering the Army to sign on for duty with a Unit Focused Stabilization unit. Recruits who sign up for the bonus must serve on active duty the amount of time it takes them to complete basic and advanced individual training plus three

years in the unit rather than the standard three, four or six year enlistment.

Opportunity for leader development training, such as basic and advanced noncommissioned officer course, and the captain’s career course will continue under Unit Focused Stability, only the timing of attendance may be affected.

The 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is the first Army unit to use Unit Focused Stability when it started the process to become the Army’s third Stryker Brigade Combat Team this past summer.

Unit Focused Stability will take longer to implement across the Army than Home-basing because of operational requirements and the need for coordination with multiple Army organizations for each unit transitioning to the new manning system, Thornton said. Eventually, the Army plans to transition one brigade combat team a month, he said.

Both Force Stabilization initiatives should not impact anybody’s chances for promotion, Byrne said, as promotions are based upon Army requirements, not unit requirements.

“We are increasing the readiness of the Army through stability and unit cohesion, while providing more predictability to Soldiers and their families,” Byrne said. “We have always said that we enlist Soldiers and reenlist families.”

APG News

The APG News, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the APG News are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 8,900.

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A VALENTINES EVENT FOR VETERANS



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Sgt. 1st Class Saturino Correa, right, an Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Academy student from Fort Bragg, N.C., chats with a patient at the Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center during the annual Valentines Party for hospitalized veterans, Feb. 14. Sgt. 1st Class Larry Johnson, small group leader, led a group of 21 NCOs to the event as part of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools’ community service commitment.

U.S. Army awards contract to Northrop Grumman to support RDECOM

Juli Ballesteros
Special contributor

The U.S. Army's Research, Development, and Engineering Command has selected Northrop Grumman Corporation's Information Technology sector to provide research, development, and engineering program and integration support services. As part of this contract, Northrop Grumman IT will provide support services to RDECOM, which will include studies and analyses, planning, organizational support, reporting, training requirements, simulation of war games and battlefield scenarios and database development and support.

"RDECOM headquarters is responsible for virtually all Army

research, development and engineering," said Dr. William Lese, vice president, Simulation, Analysis, and Training Systems, Northrop Grumman IT. "Our expertise in the key RDECOM mission areas, such as program management, strategic planning, studies and analysis, modeling and simulation, wargaming, joint force transformation, and information management, will enable us to support RDECOM's mission of fielding technologies which sustain America's Army as the premier land force in the world."

"We look forward to helping RDECOM transition the right technology in the shortest time to our Soldiers," said David Zolet, vice president, Homeland Security, Northrop Grumman

Corporation.

The task order contract is valued at \$10 million over three years to Northrop Grumman IT.

The company estimates this contract will bring approximately 10 new jobs to Northrop Grumman IT. Work on the contract will be conducted at the Northrop Grumman IT site in Aberdeen.

Northrop Grumman IT teammates on the contract include The Tauri Group, Alexandria, Va.; Quicksilver Analytics, Inc., Abingdon, Md.; Camber Corporation, Huntsville, Ala.; HGS Engineering, Inc. Anniston, Ala.; SciTech Services, Inc., Edgewood, Md.; and URS Corporation, San Francisco, Calif.

97th Signal Battalion Association formed

Retirement Services Office

The U.S. Army's 97th Signal Battalion has formed an active association.

Michael Taptick, 97th Signal Battalion Association Secretary, explained that although the association was formed in 1989, periodic announcements are made of the founding to keep former 97th members informed as some may not have seen previous announcements.

At present there are over 2,000 former 97th members

on the association rosters, which includes active and inactive members.

The secretary went on to explain that annual reunions are held in different sections of the United States and that all former battalion members and their families are invited to attend these functions of old comrades.

It was noted that the 97th Signal Battalion served with distinction from the landing in France in December 1944 until the unit was deactivated

in September 1993 and its colors returned to the United States for safe keeping.

When asked how many individual Soldiers passed through the ranks of the 97th during its 51-year history, association President Eugene Darmstedter stated; "It is impossible to establish a definite number, however; it is estimated that over 20 to 25 thousand individual Soldiers at one time called the 97th home."

With the normal assign-

ment of 600 to 900 Soldiers serving with the unit at any given time, it is easy to see how over a 51-year span, this figure is not unrealistic.

For additional information and details, former members of the 97th should contact the secretary at 3 High Ridge Circle, Uncasville, CT 06382; call 860-848-0895; e-mail mike97th@myeastern-.com or visit Web site, www.triedandtrue.org.

Authorized exception to dual compensation laws

Current Appropriated and Nonappropriated Fund employees are eligible to keep their full-time position and also be employed as an NAF flexible employee for the following hard-to-fill positions:

- Aerobic instructor, NF-1712-02
- Bartender, NA-7405-03
- Cook, NA-7404-04/05
- Custodial worker (trainee), NA-3566-01
- Custodial worker, NA-3566-02
- Custodial worker (leader), NL-3566-02
- Food service worker, NA-7408-01/04
- Gardener, NA-5003-04
- Motor vehicle operator, NA-5703-07
- Waiter (trainee), NA-7420-02
- Waiter, NA-7420-03

To receive vacancy announcements and application forms, call 410-278-5126. Completed applications can be brought or mailed to: NAF Personnel, building 305, 2201 Aberdeen Boulevard, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5001 or faxed to 410-278-0684.

For more information, call Jean Futti, 410-278-8993.



**First Baptist
Church of Aberdeen**

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training	4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.

- Youth Ministry Teams
- SBC Children's Mission Program (3 yrs. - 6th grade)
- Prayer Meeting

Dr. Gary Johnson, Pastor
219 E. Bel Air Ave. • Aberdeen, MD 21001
410-272-2845

20545

Force Health Protection Conference set for Albuquerque, Aug. 6-12

Ann Ham
CHPPM

The Seventh Annual Force Health Protection Conference 2004 will be held Aug. 6 through 12 at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground, will host the conference with the theme, "Force Health Protection - Supporting Military Transformation." The 2003 Sixth Annual Force Health Protection Conference was the largest ever.

The conference will provide the multidisciplinary mil-

itary and civilian force health protection community with the opportunity to increase knowledge and awareness of current issues, attend short courses for professional development, mentor, network, and earn CEUs or CMEs.

Preconference sessions will run Aug. 6, 7 and 8, and the core conference will be held Aug. 9 through 12.

The core conference will include both plenary and breakout sessions designed to provide an exchange of information that has a wide application within the DoD community in the following general areas: environmental science, health physics and radiological sciences, behavioral health,

occupational and preventive medicine, Veterans Administration veteran's health, analytical sciences, community and population health, occupational health sciences, deployment related healthcare, and public affairs and marketing.

Conference participants are invited to prepare and display technical posters that will be judged for content and aesthetics by a panel of subject matter experts. The winners will be announced on the final day of the conference. Technical presentations are also being sought.

Military and civilian vendors are encouraged to exhibit during the conference.

Registration and informa-

tion for attendees, vendors, presenters, and all participants is posted on Web site, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/fhp/>.

For more information, call Jane Gervasoni at 410-436-5091 or DSN 584-5091.

**Urgent news for people who have used
WELDING RODS**

Scientists report that elevated **manganese** exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with **Parkinsonism** (like **Parkinson's disease**) and **manganism**. Symptoms include **shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors**. If you have experienced any of these problems, **call us today** toll free at **1-800-THE-EAGLE** for a **free consultation** to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.



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22037

MRICD expands its biotech research facilities

Cindy Kronman
MRICD

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense continues to expand its technologically advanced capabilities with the introduction of an Affymetrix Core Facility. The institute acquired the Affymetrix GeneChip Instrument system last year, but recently completed renovations to lab space to create a dedicated facility for the system and its components.

"Obviously it took a tremendous effort from a lot of people to put the facility in place," said MRICD commander Col. Gennady Platoff at the ceremonial ribbon cutting. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the future at ICD and a prelude of what is to come."

The new technology is an asset of the institute's Toxicogenomics Team in the Applied Pharmacology Branch.

Led by principal investigator Dr. James F. Dillman III, the Toxicogenomics Team does research to identify global changes in gene and protein expression, modification, and function in response to exposure to a chemical warfare agent. Identifying these changes will assist scientists in defining how the CW agents work and in developing medical countermeasures.

Other members of the team include Chris Phillips, who has a master's in molecular biology from Towson University, and three postgraduate Oak Ridge Institute for Science and

Education program interns: Linda Dorsch, Alison Hege, and Albert Sylvester.

The process begins with a small rectangular GeneChip that has a window containing a silicon chip encoded with the DNA of a specific species. To encode the silicon chip, the Affymetrix company uses a process very similar to that used in creating integrated circuits.

Provided with a sample from an exposure experiment Dillman and his team extract

the RNA. The extracted RNA represents the gene expression profile of the sample. This RNA sample then goes through several steps to make it stable and amenable to a binding dye before it is injected into the window on the GeneChip. After injection of the RNA, the GeneChip is incubated and inserted into a GeneChip Fluidics Station, which washes fluid through the chip and stains it with fluorescent dye.

See CHIP, page 10



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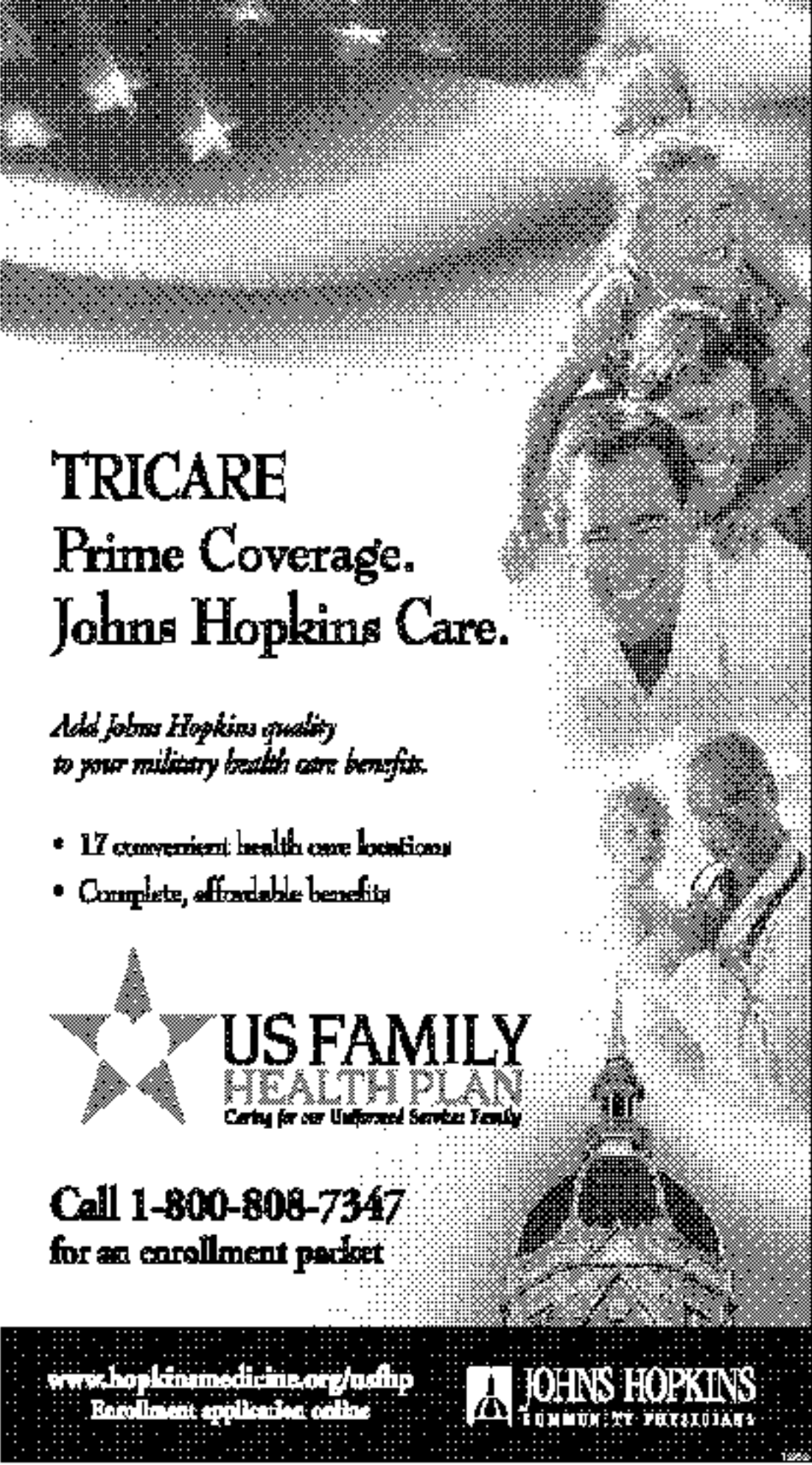
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The APG Forum

Commentary: Tips on surviving deployment

Maj. Eric Shuler
Special contributor

How do you prepare yourself and your family for an extended separation? The book, "Surviving Deployment A Guide For Military Families," is a great starting point.

Deployment is a fact of military life. The number of reserve, guard, and active troops scheduled for deployment is at record levels. The question is no longer will I get called up but when.

"Surviving Deployment: A Guide For Military Families" begins with the definitions of deploy and deployment.

Author Karen Pavlicin presents a graph showing the three phases of deployment. The first phase is pre-deployment and preparation. Phase two is deployment separation and the last is post deployment and reunion.

All three phases contain several stages. In the first phase the spouse will encounter shock, denial and anger. Many thoughts run

through your mind.

The last stage is having the service member being reintegrated into the family.

The book will help the reader get through the beginning, middle and end of the deployment.

The other chapters cover communication between the family and the deployed service member.

One of the cardinal rules is, "do not write a letter or e-mail when you are upset or angry."

While today's technology—digital photos, video, e-mail, satellite phones—can help ease the separation, the spouse is still not home.

The book contains good information on financial plan-

ning and paperwork. When does the service member get paid and how much? How does the service member pay the mortgage if in Iraq? Does the spouse have a durable power of attorney?

Financial planning is essential for the household. The checklists in the book will help guide the reader through the planning process.

The chapter "Super Spouse" focuses on taking care of the spouse. Get some exercise, talk to friends, eat right, and keeping the mind healthy are some tips.

Health is very important. One of the suggestions is volunteering to help others. A spouse may discover that other families have it even rougher.

There were certain tasks that the spouse performed that now fall on the partner's shoulders. Do not despair, there are many helpful options available. Do not make the mistake of not asking for help.

While no book can answer all of the questions, this is well researched and written by a spouse whose husband was deployed.

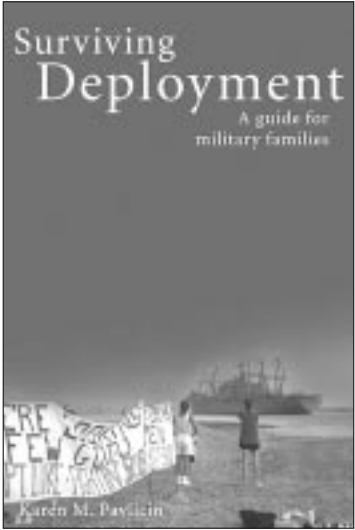
Deployment means a tough time for all involved. The spouse worries about the service member, and the service member wishes he/she were home to help.

Other books worth reading include "Call to Duty," "E-mail to the Front" and "Married to the Military."

"Surviving Deployment A Guide For Military Families" is readable and useful, which may smooth some of the bumps in the road of a deployment.

The only line I would add to the book is, "It was the best of times and the worst of times."

God bless America.



Community Notes

MOVIES

The Post Theater will be closed Feb. 20 and 21 in preparation for the 31st Annual Wilbert Davis Gospel Night, 4 p.m., Feb. 22.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 FREE HOME BUYING SEMINAR

This seminar will be offered by Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill.

Learn about the home buying process to make an informed decision on the best options in purchasing and financing a new home.

To reserve a space, call 410-272-4000 or 1-800-225-2555 ext. 5451.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 BASKET BINGO

American Legion Post 194, 336 E. Main St., Rising Sun, is sponsoring a Basket Bingo to benefit Boy Scout Troop 28. Games start at 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 for 20 games.

For more information call 410-658-3915, or e-mail basketbingors@aol.com.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 PANCAKE SUPPER

The women of St. James A.M.E. Church, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, are

hosting a Pancake Supper, 4 to 7 p.m..

The menu will include: pancakes, eggs, grits, sausage, bacon, sausage gravy with biscuits, fried potatoes, fruit, orange juice, coffee and tea. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children, age 8 and under.

This event will benefit the Church's Annual Women's Day program scheduled for March 28.



FREE HOME SELLING SEMINAR

A free Home Selling Seminar will be offered by Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room at APGFCU Operations Center in Edgewood, 1321 Pulaski Highway.

Topics include: reasons for selling, market analysis, costs of selling a home, for sale by owner, showing the home, negotiating and

home inspections. To reserve a space, call 410-272-4000 or 1-800-225-2555, ext. 5451.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28 VFW 8185 BASKET BINGO

VFW Post 8185 Men's Auxiliary, located on Route 222, Port Deposit, will hold Basket Bingo, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 per person for all paper cards. Food, baked goods and beverages will be available. Door prizes and raffles also will be held. No smoking is permitted.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Anne Gibson at 410-378-3338 or Brenda Conjour at 410-273-7332.

FRIDAY MARCH 5 COUNTRY HOE DOWN

The Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors country western dancing the first Friday of the month at the American Legion located on Parke Street in Aberdeen. Dancing is held from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Cost of admission is \$8. Cash bar is available, and no dance lessons.

For more information, call 410-272-8318.

OMMS LIBRARY

Library hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8:45 p.m. and Friday, noon to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-278-4991.

Throughout the month of February the OMMS library is featuring a bulletin board and other displays depicting Martin Luther King and other prominent Blacks in the basement of building 3701.

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MCSC holds pottery lottery

Beginning April 1, the Military and Civilian Spouses Club will give away Polish pottery to one winner each day in the month of April. Tickets are on sale for a \$5 donation by calling 410-939-6429. There will be one winning ticket determined by The Maryland State Lottery's Pick Three evening drawing.

The monies generated provide educational scholarships for area recipients, and help fulfill welfare requests received from national and local organizations, schools and charities.

For official rules and pictures of the pottery for each day, visit Web site www.apgmcsc.org.

Post Shorts

From front page
to sign up, call Sandy Hernandez-McCullough at 410-278-2435.

Veterinary facility holds clinics

Clinics at the APG Veterinary Treatment Facility for privately owned pets will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 24, by appointment only. Only personnel authorized routine medical care at a military health facility such as Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic may take advantage of these clinics. To schedule an appointment or for further information, call 410-278-3911/4575.

RAB meeting scheduled

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting 7 to 9:45 p.m., Feb. 26, at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topics will include Performance-Based Contracting and updates on the J-Field and Canal Creek Study Areas.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Orientation for newcomers

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Community Information Forum, formerly APG Newcomer Orientation, will be held at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326, 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 26. All military and civilian personnel, retirees and their family members are invited to attend. Over 55 representatives of support agencies/organizations will be present to discuss the latest and greatest information on their activities. Give-aways will be available and door prizes awarded. For more information, call Godofredo Posadas, Relocation Readiness Program manager, Army Community Service, 410-278-2453/7474.

FWP holds training conference

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women's Program is holding its 'free' annual Training Conference 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 3, in the Edgewood Conference Center, building E-4810. Registration starts at 7 a.m. To register for classes visit <http://www.apg.army.mil/garrison/FWP/FWP.htm>. The cutoff date for registration is Feb. 27. For more information, call Sheryl Coleman at 410-306-0713 or Charlotte Albro at 410-436-4611.

APG holds Town Hall Meeting March 10

The next quarterly Town Hall Meeting will be held at the RDECOM Conference Center, building E-4810, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

APG Occupational Health Clinic offering limited services

There will be no clinical or nursing staff available in the Aberdeen Area Occupational Health Clinic the week of March 15. Patients with injuries are requested to go to the nearest emergency room. Those with minor/chronic illnesses are requested to see either their civilian or military provider of choice. Only scheduling services will be addressed through the OHC in the Aberdeen Area during this staff shortage. The OHC in the Edgewood area is not affected and will continue to provide normal services. For more information, call 410-278-19213.

Adult American citizenship class

The Army Community Service Relocation Assistance

Program will offer a free class for military personnel or family members, preparing to take the test for American Citizenship given by Immigration and Naturalization. The class will be held 10 to 11:30 a.m., every Saturday, April 16 through May 1, at ACS, building 2754 Rodman Road. The class covers citizenship procedures, explains how to fill out applications, basic American history and the Constitution. Attendees must attend all sessions to receive a Harford Community College certificate for attending a citizenship class. Seating is limited. For more information or to register, call the Relocation Readiness Office at 410-278-7474/2453.

Improve English skills

English for Speakers of Other Languages will be held for those just needing a refresher course or for those with little or no English speaking or writing skills. The class is also designed for foreign-born adults providing an opportunity to improve their English comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills. Classes will be held 9 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 23 through April 13, at Army Community Service, building 2754, Rodman Road. This free class is open to military personnel, APG civilians, retirees, and adult family members 18 years and older. For more information or to register, call the Relocation Office at 410-278-7474/2453.

Ruggles Golf Course opens

Ruggles Golf Course is now open for nine holes of golf. Special rates will apply. Snow and ice rules will be in effect. For more information, call 410-278-4794.

Santa photos are ready

The Army Community Service 3rd Annual Holiday 'Photos with Santa' are ready for pick up 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in building 2754, Monday through Friday, or call 410-278-7474.

AA Badge ID Office changes hours of operation

Effective immediately, due to a shortage in personnel, the Aberdeen Area Badge/ID Office will be closed on non-RDO Friday's until further notice. It is anticipated that the vacant positions will be filled by the end of April, which will allow the office to return to normal hours of operations. This closure does not affect the

Edgewood Area Badge/ID Office.

Warrant officer's needed

The U. S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in 45 specialties for those that qualify. Applicants with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information and all forms/documents required, visit Web site www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or call 502-626-0271 or DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478-/0271/1860.

Christian coffee-house opens

The Coffee Grounds, a Christian coffeehouse, is now open 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, and 7 to 10 p.m., Saturday evenings in building 4308, at the intersection of Susquehanna and Erie boulevards. Everyone is welcome to attend. Live bands, open mike nights, and various readings are scheduled for Saturday nights. Both nights feature coffee and snacks in a Christian gathering. For more information, call Chaplain (Capt.) Mike Curtis at 410-278-3976.

MCSC to donate funds

The APG Military & Civilian Spouses' Club will donate funds to organizations and charities this spring. Groups interested in placing a request for funds should do so in writing. Include name of organization requesting funds, the manner in which the funds will be used, list of other fund raising efforts, and a contact person for the organization (name, address and telephone number). Requests must be postmarked by April 1. Submit requests to: MCSC Welfare Chairperson, #3 Plumb Point Loop, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005, or welfare@apgmcs.org

MCSC accepting scholarship applications

The APG Military & Civilian Spouses' Club is accepting applications for scholarships until April 1. Applications are available at Web site www.apgmcs.org. For more information, call 410-612-0185.

Half price membership to MCSC

The membership year for the Military and Civilian Spouses' Club has reached it's half way mark and is now offering half price member-

ship. For more information, or to join, visit www.apgmcs.org.

School Age/Middle School Services Summer Program

The Aberdeen and Edgewood Summer Program will run for up to 10 weeks, starting June 14 (subject to change according to end of school year), 6:30 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The program is open to all qualifying children who have completed 1st through 8th grades. Enrollment does not require attendance at all 10 sessions. There will be a \$20 non-refundable deposit required at the time of registration for each week selected. Tuition fees are based on total family income. Waiting list forms may be picked up at the Edgewood Youth Services, building E-1902, the Aberdeen Youth Services, building 2522 or the Outreach Services building 2752 during regular working hours. Forms may be dropped off at the Edgewood Youth Services building E-1902, the Outreach Services building 2752 or faxed to 410-278-2582. Waiting list forms will not be accepted at the Aberdeen Youth Services. Sponsors will be notified of available openings starting March 2. Registration is by appointment only. For questions or more information, call the Outreach Services Office at 410-278-7571 or 7479.

ship. For more information, or to join, visit www.apgmcs.org.

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FEW sponsors March fund raiser

The Maryland Tri-County Chapter of Federally Employed Women is sponsoring a Basket Bingo fundraiser during the month of March. Purchase a ticket from the FEW and match the number to the evening Maryland State Lottery Number to win. Tickets cost \$5 each and are valid in March only.

Funds go towards FEW's annual Dottie Dorman Working Woman's Scholarship presented each year during Women's Equality Day. For more information, contact Chapter President Suzanne Schultz at 410-939-2098.

Weight Watchers meets for lunch

Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings continue on post with the newest program from Weight Watchers - FlexPoints. FlexPoints makes losing weight in the real world easier. Get 11 weeks for the price of 10. Lunchtime Weight Watchers meetings are open to all APG civilian personnel, retirees, military personnel and family members.

For more information, call 410-278-1151.

Kirk offers class

The following class will be held at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. For more information and to register for class, call Preventive Medicine at 410-278-1964. **Take Care of Yourself** Class is held on the third Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Preventive Medicine Clinic on the third floor. Patients will be taught how to treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, and instructed when to see a doctor. Participants will be given medical cards, which will allow them to pick up specific over-the-counter medications without a prescription.

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MWR

Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Family Child Care celebrates African-American History Month

Beverly Hartgrove
Family Child Care

A special visitor entertained and educated children, parents, and providers from Family Child Care at the Aberdeen Youth Services Gym Day Feb. 12.

KinderMan, a nationally acclaimed superhero of song, dance, and rhyme, provided songs to the accompaniment of a keyboard. He not only taught colors and nursery rhymes, but he used expression and imagination to encourage a sense of self-worth, of belonging.

“KinderMan was exciting, interactive, and kept the attention of the kids,” said Tonya Armstead, provider.

Kinderman’s technique stems from a 5,000-year-old tradition in Nigeria where each tribe had a teacher, the leader. The tribe sat in a circle and learned songs and dances to celebrate the sunnier aspects of life. Its members sang and danced daily to carry the positive spirit forward with them. A similar thing occurs for many people when they go to church - they become filled with awe and ardor. He uses his art to fill children with spirit, helping them to feel hopeful about life.

KinderMan, a.k.a. John Taylor, performs live shows for 1,000 children a week at sites throughout the country. “Peace in the Hood,” for example, teaches children to



Photo courtesy of FAMILY CHILD CARE

Kinderman shows Marian Anderson's picture to Provider Tonya Armstead's group, from left Micheal Raymon, 3, Kinderman, Zenecia Ewings, 3, Llandyn Armstead, 21 months, and Armstead, Family Child Care "Star" Provider. Marian Anderson is a famous singer in Kinderman's Black Hall of Fame.

work together in their community. In the Baltimore area, his Emmy-Award winning children’s program brings his wondrous repertoire to the TV screen. He also coaches more than 5,000 teachers annually in his technique, seeking to spread his simple message nationwide.

The children didn’t know they were learning socialization, memorization, or confidence-building skills. It was 45 minutes of nonstop interaction.

KinderMan used life-size posters to teach participants about important figures in African-American History.

From the Black Hall of Fame each person had a rhyme that made it easy to remember the famous person, such as Marian Anderson “really could sing; her wonderful voice made the Liberty Bell ring;” that “Dr. Charles Richard Drew” is the founder of the blood bank for the Red Cross and blood plasma, we have him to thank;” that Ralph J. Bunch was a diplomat for peace in the Middle East” and more.

Pam Bridges, provider, and Jo Rodriguez, parent, said, “I like him. He was really fun. We loved his songs. The kids loved it. It was smashing!”

KinderMan taught the

group to sing “Friends, Friends, Friends,” and gave several children the opportunity to sing it to the group.

The children also learned directions such as marching in a circle, reverse, and dancing in the middle by moving to the music.

“It was good. My son liked the songs. It was very entertaining,” said Odilia Stanley, provider.

Looking ahead, Taylor says he’s striving to expand the show to reach some 100 markets nationwide.

For more information on KinderMan, visit <http://horizonmag.com/2/kinderman.htm>.

SCHOOL LIAISON/YOUTH EDUCATION

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors residing in the Aberdeen community or whose parents graduated from Aberdeen High School. To apply, contact the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce to get an application at 410-272-2580 or e-mail them at www.aberdeancecc.com/scholar.htm.

Application deadline is April 1.

FREE PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS

“The Achiever,” a semi-

monthly school year booklet is available for parents and community leaders by the Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, U.S. Department of Education. Two articles from the January 2004 issue of note are “New Rule Increases Flexibility for Students with Disabilities,” and “The Three R’s for Success.”

To subscribe, visit: edpubs@inet.ed.gov or call 1-877-433-7827.

Other helpful sites worth looking at are NoChildLeftBehind@ed.gov and usa_learn@ed.gov.

Join the boat club

Spesutie Island Boating Activity is located in the Aberdeen Area of APG, building 36. Mooring spaces cost \$11 per foot, parking lot space costs \$8 foot, and Ramp only membership costs \$7.50 per foot per boating season, March until November 2004.

Amenities include an easy access ramp and a clubhouse with screened porch with a kitchen, two bathrooms and a meeting/party room. There is also a picnic area for family and social gatherings.

Membership requirements

Member must be the boat owner and must complete eight hours of work and stand

three security watches, 7 to 10 p.m. There is no fee to be a member; all fees are associated with the storage and services.

Membership is open to active duty military, retired military, full time Army National Guard, DOD civilians, retired DOD civilians, and contractors with APG ID cards.

Proof of insurance is also a requirement.

Applications can be picked up at the clubhouse in building 36 and at the Outdoor Recreation Office. For information or questions call Rick Bruno, 410-278-5931 or the Outdoor Recreation Office, 410-278-4124.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Edgewood Area Library is open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday. For more information, call 410-436-3589.

The following is a list of some new books available at the APG MWR libraries:



The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland

"In her last novel, best-selling author Vreeland fictionalized the life of Renaissance painter Artemisia Gentileschi. She now presents a speculative portrait of the intrepid and too little known British Columbian painter Emily Carr (1871-1945), older sister-in-spirit to O'Keeffe and Kahlo. Vreeland's dramatic depictions of Carr's daunting solo journeys, arduous artistic struggle, persistent loneliness, and despair over the tragic fate of the endangered people she came to love truly are provocative and moving."

Peril by Thomas Cook

Bet Me by Jennifer Crusie

Her Mother's Shadow by Diane Chamberlain

The Last Juror by John Grisham

The Working Poor: Invisible in America by David Shipler

The library's Web site:

www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html provides access to the library's online catalog and also has a complete annotated listing of the library's new material, as well as a list of available films on DVD.

LEAVE DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (within agency); and OPM 630-B,

Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should contact Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, or e-mail rondamckinney@usag.apg.army.mil, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Juanita Carter
Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia)
Sarah Blevins
Jane E. Calahan
Jackie Childress
Joseph Dugan
David Fletcher
Renee Gaffney
Melanie A. Hoffman (parasitosis, fibromyalgia condition)
Richard Hoffman
Beth Kelly
Beverly King (caring for hus-

band)
Danny Kopp (lung cancer)
Cheryl Johnson-Mathews
William B. McLean (kidney failure)
Linda M. D. Queen
Tess Ramos (lung surgery)
Michael Reynolds
Cheryl L. Roark
Matthew Ryan
Marguerite Soper
Eunice Thompson
Alison Tichenor
Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant)

Activities

MWR has a very exciting and entertaining year planned for APG. Some things to look for include ICW

Wrestling event on March 20, Miller Lite Army Concert Tour presenting Montgomery Gentry on July 17, and lots

more. Visit <http://www.apgmwr.com> for the latest information.

Methods of registration

Register for any MWR event by visiting the specific facility for the event, mailing in a registration form found in an MWR Program Brochure, visiting the MWR Registration, building 3326, or online at www.apgmwr.com.

Pet care lecture

Pet care experts will share information on how to provide the best possible care for a pet 6-8 p.m., Feb. 26, at the AA Recreation Center.

Veterinary experts, dog trainers and exotic pet professionals will provide important nutritional, medical, physical and psychological information and guidelines.

Register by Feb. 20. Cost is \$10.

Bowling specials

Moonlight Bowling Special with Red Pins will be held 9 p.m. to closing, Feb. 20. Throw a strike on a red head pin and draw out of the prize bowl.

Everyone can “win” all

kinds of prizes from free games to discounts at the snack bar.

Queen of the Hill Tournament will be held Feb. 29. Cost is \$8 per person.

Bowl four games and the top three qualifiers will bowl head to head in step ladder finals.

For more information, call Dave Brewner at 410-278-4041 or e-mail dave.brewner@usag.apg.army.mil.

To view bowling scores for the week of Feb. 14, visit the *APG News* Web site, www.apgnews.apg.army.mil.

Arts, Crafts changes hours of operation

The Arts & Crafts hours are Sunday and Monday, closed; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.

Golf Conditioning

Starting March 9, this four-week class will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday at the AA Fitness Center.

Cost is \$45.

Golf conditioning will

emphasize cardiovascular, strength, and core training exercises specifically designed to make golfers stronger.

Register by March 2.

Pennsylvania markets

It’s been said that if you can’t buy it at the Green Dragon Market, “it just ain’t for sale.”

Ride a deluxe motorcoach on March 19 to one of the largest farmer’s market in the United States.

There will be great deals on fruits, vegetables, baked goods, meats, seafood, sweets, crafts, books, flowers, jewelry, clothing, coins and more.

Bus will pick up at Vitali’s Restaurant on MD Rt. 24 in Edgewood at 7:45 a.m. and drop off at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$15.

Register by March 5.

Saturday Chess Tournament series

Starting March 6, there will be a chess tournament series, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the AA Recreation Center.

The divisional competition will be a round robin format

and winners will be selected based on total points accumulated.

Awards will be presented to the winners and runners-up in each age division.

The scheduled dates for the three divisions are March 6 (ages 12 and under), March 13 (ages 13 through 17), and March 20 (ages 18 and over). Cost is \$10.

Register by Feb. 20.

Senior Shuffleboard tournament

Shuffleboard is old in concept but new in revival with the added spice of having once been illegal.

Shuffleboard was a favorite pastime of Henry VIII.

This tournament is open to seniors 55 years and older.

Awards will be presented to the winners based on the number of entries.

Tournament will be held 6 to 9 p.m., March 9 at the AA Recreation Center.

Cost is \$10.

Register by March 2.

Tournament starts at 2 p.m.

Discount to Medieval Times Dinner, Tournament

Military personnel are invited to the Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament in Hanover, Md., at a 50 percent discount on Feb. 19, 25 and 26. Gratuity is not included. Someone in the party will need to show their active duty ID card at the box office window to receive this special deal.

The show begins at 7 p.m. but guests are asked to arrive no later than one hour prior to show time. Subject to space availability.

Tickets must be purchased at the Medieval Times Box Office window.

Additionally, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament Castles in selected locations throughout the country are offering a free dinner for two for all Soldiers redeploying from Afghanistan and Iraq or on rest and recuperation leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

Through Feb. 26, the Medieval Times in Maryland and New Jersey will admit two people free for any performance, including dinner, Monday through Thursday,

provided at least one person presents proof of redeployment or R&R from OIF. Military members need only to make a reservation and mention the free military OIF/OEF admission offer.

Upon arrival, the dinner-theatre will require the individual to show a leave form verifying R&R leave status or movement orders verifying redeployment to CONUS from OIF or OEF.

The restaurants features live jousting tournaments nightly.

To make a reservation at Medieval Times call 1-800-544-2001 for Lyndhurst, N.J.; and 1-888-935-6878 for Hanover, Md., locations.


For more information, call 703-681-5225 or DSN 761-5225.

Regular schedule tickets for military personnel and civilians can be purchased through MWR for shows Sunday thru Friday, adult - \$40, child - \$33 and Saturday, adult - \$47, child - \$35. These tickets (vouchers) are confirmed (i.e. reservations made) before patron leaves the MWR office.

Veterans' voices

With more than 500,000 veterans in Maryland and more than 40,000 of those in the Baltimore region, the veteran voice is strong both socially and politically. Veterans' groups continue to serve Maryland communities with donations and support for hospitals, schools, libraries, youths and youth organizations, service members, and of course, other veterans.

This is the first Veterans' Voices column dedicated solely to publicizing veterans' issues, events, and interests. Veterans' Voices will appear monthly in the APG News with updates and profiles of local veterans and organizations. The APG News hopes to serve its readers, service members, civilians, and veterans with information straight from the voices of veterans.



Courtesy U.S. ARMY ORDNANCE MUSEUM

State memorial coming to APG

The Purple Heart monument like this one that sits in a Maryland Eastern Shore community, will be erected at Aberdeen Proving Ground and designated a state memorial during a ceremony scheduled for Aug. 7. The memorial will be placed in front of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum.

Veterans Commission reaches out to community

Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs stepped forward to announce its presence and goals for the veteran community during a symposium held at the American Legion Post 39 in Bel Air, Jan. 31.

Led by newly-appointed chairman, retired Army Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Brooks, and hosted by Carolynn Baker, Post 39 commander, representatives from the county's veterans' organizations, as well as state and local representatives attended the meeting to voice and learn more about issues affecting Harford County veterans.

The speakers included Harford County Executive James Harkins; Larry J. Kimble, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Ed Kreiner, Governor's Tax Relief Board; Ken Sliker, Perry Point Veterans Administration Medical Center; Thomas B. Insley Sr., Maryland State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America; Orville R. Hughes, Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart; and Dale E. Smith, Veterans Affairs

Maryland Health Care System, Homeless Veterans Housing.

In addition, commission member Cathy Hampton briefed attendees on the Veterans History Project, Library Program and the upcoming Veterans Muster to be held at the Harford Mall, May 15.

Brooks said the intent of the meeting was to inform commanders and representatives of the goals of the commission.

"We wanted to tell them about the commission, its initiatives, and the need for input from all the veterans' organization," Brooks said.

He added that the turnout was good and that much was accomplished toward supporting and obtaining feedback from the veteran community.

"The focus is all about we," he said. "Today [the meeting] was to build on previous achievements by former commission members. Our role is to offer an overview of what is happening in the veteran community," Brooks said.

What's Happening

Veterans Muster

A muster for Harford County Veteran Service Organizations will be held at the Harford Mall May 15. Several planned events include visits by state and local politicians and Aberdeen Proving Ground military leaders, a performance by the Free State ChalleNGe Academy drill team, musical guests, honor guards, and tributes to service members serving in the War on Terrorism.

"This is a great opportunity for VSOs to showcase their organization to the community, said Cathy Hampton, veteran commission member and lead organizer for the muster. "It is also an opportunity to recruit new members or solicit donations," she said. VSOs can set up booths for fundraising, focus on a particular topic, or simply provide information about the organization to the community."

Harford Mall requires that participants be insured. There is a small one-time fee to purchase liability coverage.

For more information, or to register for the Veterans Muster, call Hampton at 410-272-7883 or e-mail her at markncathy@comcast.net.

Purple Heart Memorial

Orville R. Hughes, Commander, Department of Maryland Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum announced plans to erect a state monument to Purple Heart

recipients at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The monument will be placed in front of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum and dedicated during a ceremony to be held Aug. 7, the 222nd birthday of the Purple Heart Medal.

Larry Kimble, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, suggested the APG site when Hughes approached him with the idea.

"The location in the center of a large veteran community and the installation's proximity to Interstate 95 made it the perfect location," Kimble said.

Dr. F.W. Atwater, the museum's director agreed.

"This is a secure, safe area for visitors to the memorial," Atwater said.

He noted that the Ordnance Museum Foundation will provide the foundation for the monument and that final plans for the ceremony will be put out through the APG News and other news organizations.

"We will work closely with the Military Order of Purple Hearts and Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a worthy ceremony," Atwater said.

KWVA Chapter holding membership drive

The Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 271 in Aberdeen is conducting a membership drive for veterans and active-duty service members.

Membership is open to veterans who served during the Korean War era,

1950 to 1953; in Korea for a minimum of 30 days since 1955; or anyone who was in the service, within or outside Korea, in 1955.

Applicants need not have been in combat to be eligible.

A DD Form 214 or other official military record is required. The chapter is a nationally recognized veterans organization that participates in local veterans activities and events, often in conjunction with other organizations.

Meetings are held the last Monday of the month, 7 p.m., at American Legion Post 128, 132 South Parke Street in Aberdeen.

For more information, or to apply for membership, call Nick Guerra, commander, at 410-272-0458 after 4 p.m.

547th Engineer Battalion Association to hold reunion

The 547th Engineer Battalion (Combat) Association Reunion and its attached units, 552nd and 1328th, will hold its 18th annual reunion, July 29 through Aug. 1, at the Ramada Inn Bayview, 7601 Scenic Highway, Pensacola, Fla.

Former members of the 547th currently living on major military posts or nearby areas all over the world are invited to attend.

For more information, contact George McDonald at 1-850-994-1063, 4956 Guernsey Road, Pace, FL 32571, or e-mail animcdona@aol.com.

Safety and Health

Motorcycle Safety Training available on APG

DSHE

It's that time of the year again to ensure that operators of privately owned motorcycles are in compliance with the Army Regulation 385-55, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents and Department of Defense, Instruction 6055.4, Traffic Safety Program.

"It is a government requirement that all motorcyclists take an operators training course to be eligible to ride motorcycles on any Army installation," said Randy Rexrode, safety and occupational health specialist, Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment.

To assist APG motorcycle drivers in complying with the regulations, the first Motorcycle Safety Foundation Operators Training Course will be held at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools parking lot in March 2004.

The course, sponsored by the Installation Safety Division with instructors provided by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, is designed to help prevent motorcycle accidents involving Army personnel, dependents, government employees and retirees.

Training will be available monthly with the exception of the winter months.

The five-hour class is provided at no cost to military, dependents, government employees and retirees, and attendees are not charged leave while attending the training.

Motorcyclists who have already taken a motorcycle safety course and can provide proof do not have to repeat the training.

Any personnel who have not had the training will not be allowed to register their motorcycles and if the motorcycle had

been registered prior to APG enforcing compliance, it will not be allowed on post until the cyclist takes the class.

According to Rexrode, there are several requirements to consider when contemplating taking the MSF course.

"Attendee must be a licensed motorcyclist. Cyclist must wear protective clothing to include eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves, over-the ankle footwear and a DOT approved helmet," Rexrode said. "Riders must bring proof of insurance, and their motorcycle must be able to pass an inspection performed by the instructor. Cyclist must be available to attend 100 percent of the course."

Anyone interested in improving their riding skills and fine-tuning driving strategies should contact Rexrode at 410-306-0198, or e-mail him at "randy.rexrode@usag.apg.army.mil" for future class schedules.

Soothing chapped lips

Michael E. Dukes
Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Most people get chapped lips from time to time. They usually apply lip balm to their peeling and cracked lips and then forget about it. But sometimes this does little to remedy the already-active condition. Experts agree that using balms before the damage is done is most effective.

According to experts, using petrolatum or lip balm is the best treatment for dry and peeling lips, particularly before it occurs.

In the winter there are more chapped lips because it is so dry out. In winter, low humidity outdoors as well as indoors aggravates the lips of people who have a predisposition for chapped lips.

Chapped lips is the drying and flaking of dehydrated lips and is common in people with other skin conditions like eczema. Certain medications, like those used to treat acne and allergies to cosmetics and skin-care products, can also contribute to dry and irritated lips.

The Army has conducted several studies to assess the scope of the lip ailments affecting Soldiers.

One study performed in the early 1980s, "The Prevalence Of

Environmental Induced Lip Pathology Among Active-Duty Soldiers," found that chronic lip damage was as common in Soldiers working mostly indoors as those working primarily outdoors.

The study also found that people with the lightest complexions are most likely to experience chronic lip damage resulting from exposure to environmental factors.

Another study conducted in 1985, "The Prevalence Of Lip Injury During U.S. Army Cold-Weather Exercises," and another performed in 1997, "The Prevalence Of Chapped Lips During An Army Hot-Weather Exercise," attributed chapped lips more to dehydration and moisture content than any other factor.

The 1997 study states: "Commercially available lip protectants may offer increased protection from dehydration but only if they are applied before chapped lips occur."

It is important to look for lip balms that say SPF 15 sunblock on them to block the harmful ultraviolet rays when Soldiers are outside in the sun - particularly in the summer.

Soldiers are normally issued some type of lip balm when they deploy, and experts recommend they begin to use it before they start to experience chapped lips.

Chapped lips are not something to be overly alarmed about, though. It's simply a matter of humidity.

The big thing, experts say, is to drink a lot of water so that the lips are being moisturized from the inside. Use lip balms, and stop licking the lips. Licking one's lips tends to cause more irritation. Saliva actually dries the lip more.

It is most important to stay hydrated. Don't drink too many caffeinated beverages. They cause the drinker to lose water. Instead drink a lot of water.

On rare occasions, infections can occur as a result of chapped lips. Carcinomas on the lip are another problem seen in some patients over 40. These patients typically have red and white blotchy lips. Sometimes this can be hard to detect because chapped lips conceal abnormalities.

Anyone who is worried about a worsening in his or her lip health should discuss it with a dentist and possibly get a referral to see an oral pathologist.

(Editor's note: Maj. William Demsar, oral pathologist at Walter Reed Army Medical center, contributed professional expertise for this article. Reprinted with permission of The Stripe.)

Recall announced- Acrylic primer for nail care

CPSC

In cooperation with the CPSC, Sassi America Inc., of Elk Grove Village, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 72,000 bottles of acrylic primer used to prepare fingernails before applying artificial nails. This methacrylic acid primer is not packaged in child-resistant packaging, as required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act.

Sassi America has received a report of a 2-year-old girl in Pompano Beach, Fla., who sustained severe external and internal chemical burns after swallowing the liquid primer.

The primer is packaged in amber-colored bottles with black caps. The model number 508, 509, 510, 511 or 512



is written on the front of the label. "SASSI" also is written on the labels.

The primer was sold in .25-ounce, .50-ounce, 1-ounce, 2-ounce and 4-ounce size bottles.

The acrylic primers were sold separately and in kits.

Grocery and beauty supply stores nationwide sold the primer from June 2000 through January 2004 for between \$2 and \$10.

Consumers should return the acrylic primer and kits to the store where purchased to receive a refund.

For more information, call Sassi collect at 847-228-0334 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday.

To see more photos of the recalled item, visit <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04066.html>.

OC&S

From front page

sculpture of an eagle called "Pride."

"We always try to give something memorable to mark this important accomplishment," Fernandez said.

2004 Service Members of the Year

Sgt. Carolyn E. McCarthy, NCO of the Year

McCarthy serves as the Operations NCO for Company A 16th Ordnance Battalion. A native of Erie, Penn., she entered the Army in 1999 and served in Fort Shafter, Hawaii, before arriving at APG in September 2003.

Prior to her selection as the NCO of the year, McCarthy was the 61st Ordnance Brigade NCO of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter.

She said she is excited and honored by "this great honor."

"I realize it is a big responsibility,

representing Aberdeen Proving Ground," she said. "I will do the best I can."

Spec. Jonathan Short, Soldier of the Year

Short graduated from the Free State ChalleNGe Academy in 1997 and entered the Army one month later. Assigned to APG in November 2001, the Baltimore native serves as a Personnel Security specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 61st Ordnance Brigade. He also was the Brigade Soldier of the Year for the 1st quarter.

His sister, Modesta Short, said that the academy "changed his life."

"By his first visit home he was different," she said. "Suddenly he seemed focused."

"It gave me perspective," Short added. "Now all I want to do is set the example for my peers."

He said that Soldiers should not be afraid to challenge themselves.

"Take the initiative to do something for yourself," he said. "No one can do it for you."

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin L. Olson, Drill Sergeant of the Year

Olson is assigned to Company C, 16th Ordnance Battalion where he has served as both instructor and drill sergeant to Advanced Individual Training Soldiers since 1999.

The native of Spokane, Wash., entered the Army in 1986. His previous assignments include duty in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operation Desert Shield/Storm and in Bosnia during Operation Joint Endeavor.

Olson is currently preparing to advance to competition at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command level.

"Never stop preparing to be the best," Olson offered as advice to those seeking to follow in his footsteps.

"Always seek out new challenges. It's the only way to advance and grow."

His wife, Manuela, accompanied Olson. The couple has one daughter, Apaea.

Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Flannery, USMC NCO of the Year

Flannery hails from Hamilton, Ohio. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1986 and has been assigned as an armor instructor in the Small Arms Division of the USMC Detachment about 18 months.

His previous assignments include duty at the American Embassy in Muscat, Oman, and with security details to the President of the United States in Ankara, Turkey and Pretoria, South Africa.

Flannery said he was "thrilled" at his selection and felt great pride.

"There are a lot of Marines here who are just as deserving," Flannery said. "I'd like to thank the Marine Corps in general, the detachment, and the command here on APG for this honor."

Also in attendance were Flannery's parents, Debbie and Wes Flannery, his wife, Sheena and 2-year old daughter, Anna.

Staff Sgt. Alicia P. Stigger,

USAF NCO of the Year

Stigger serves as the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the USAF Detachment 1, 361st Training Squadron Command Support Staff.

She has spent the last two of her 12 years in the service at APG. Stigger holds an Associate of Applied Science degree, a bachelor's degree in management and has completed 21 hours toward a master's degree in human resource management. She will be promoted to technical sergeant April 1.

Prior to coming to APG, the Dallas, Texas, native served in Spokane, Wash., South Korea, at Bolling Air Force Base and in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

She said it was an honor to be nominated and an even greater honor to be selected.

"It's always a good feeling to be recognized by your peers and superiors," Stigger said. "I feel wonderful and very proud that they have this confidence in me."

Let the mailman do the driving

Sierra Military Health Services, Inc

TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy and Express Scripts offer a convenient option for prescription needs that is more economical than visiting a neighborhood drugstore. In most cases, a 90-day supply through mail order costs the same as a 30-day supply at a retail pharmacy.

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- Insert the form, the prescription and payment in the pre-addressed, postage-free envelope and mail it.

For refills of prescriptions already at TMOP:

- Call Express Scripts toll-free at 1-866-363-8667
- Visit Express Scripts at www.express-scripts.com.

Chip

From page 3

From there the chip is inserted into a GeneArray Scanner, which reads the fluorescence of the dye to match genes in the sample with those encoded on the chip.

Data from the scanner indicate which genes were in the sample and in what quantity.

This information is translated on a computer screen into a grid of brightened and darkened squares. Brightened squares indicate genes that are expressed, or "turned on," by the exposure to the CW agent; the dark squares indicate genes that were "turned off" by the exposure.

Software translates these data into numbers and tells researchers the specific genes that are changed.

Scientists can thereby discern what genes were significantly changed by exposure to the CW agent, which in

turn tells them how the cells responded to exposure over time or by dose.

From this information they can determine methods of intervention to prevent damage caused by the CW agent exposure.

When analyzing samples from experiments studying pretreatment or treatment compounds, scientists can look at the compounds' effectiveness at the molecular level and see why a compound may or may not be effective.

They can also see how a compound or its delivery might be modified to increase its effectiveness.

"The advantage of the Affymetrix technology is that it allows scientists to study thousands of genes simultaneously and to put together pathways of injury more quickly than we would be able to do otherwise," Dillman said. "It thereby accelerates the drug discovery and drug screening processes."



Photo by STEPHANIE FROBERG

The GeneChip Fluidics Station (inset) washes the genechip and stains it with fluorescent dye. Dr. James Dillman, principal investigator, then inserts the genechip into the GeneArray Scanner, which identifies the genes affected by the CW exposure or by treatment compounds. Results of the scan are displayed on the computer screen.



Grace Frankenhauer, 18, left, and her mother Marian, use a handsaw to cut the dowels to the required length. A recipient of an MCSC scholarship in 2003 who now attends Villa Julie College, Grace volunteered her free time to help with the project.



Elaine Valentin, founder of A Military Wife, stitches a gold star onto the flag base using her own embroidery machine.



From left, Rose Ann Spieles and Brandy Wuollet measure and cut strips of red material that will make up the border of the Gold Star banners.



Army spouse Liz Barnes applies metallic gold paint to a dowel.

Flags

From front page

U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, thanked the volunteers and an anonymous donor who provided pizzas for their lunch.

“Everyone pitches in to make this happen,” Meredith said. “I think all of us, being associated with the military, realize its importance and value.”

“This is the first time I participated in anything of this magnitude,” said Brandy Wuollet as she measured and cut the red strips of cloth that would make up the flag’s borders.

“It’s challenging and the whole reason for it is worthwhile,” she said.

At a nearby table, 18-year old Grace Frankenhauer, and her mother Marian used a hand saw to cut the dowels, the wooden poles that hold up the flags, for other volunteers who would then paint them a metallic gold.

Frankenhauer was the recipient of an MCSC scholarship last year and now attends Villa Julie College in Baltimore. She said she felt compelled to help the organization that has done so much for her, the community, and now the nation.

“I’m just trying to help out and do my part,” she said.

A former Army Reserve nurse, and the wife of Lt. Col. David Frankenhauer who is assigned to the Pentagon, Marian Frankenhauer said she remembered hearing about the flags when she was a child.

“I’m glad the tradition has been revived,” she said. “It’s important for us to honor those who made sacrifices so our children can have the freedom that they do.”

Sonia Moss, the wife of Warrant Officer Eric Moss, now serving in Iraq, agreed. Not yet an MCSC member, Moss said she volunteered her sewing skills “for him and for all those in harms’ way.”

“It feels great to be a part of this,” Moss said, as she sewed the red border material to the white rectangular cloth that serves as the field. “Something like this touches people and lets them know others are thinking about them,” she said.

Completing the final step before the gold star is added to its center, Lynn McNamara, an MCSC advisor and the wife of Tim McNamara, APG Garrison’s director of Safety, Health and Environment, said that despite the long process, it is a labor of love for all involved.

“To most of us it means a connection to other families,” McNamara said. “These could easily be meant for one of our loved ones.”



Lynn McNamara irons creases into the flag base, the final step before the gold star is applied.

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